

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 01231 242207Z

62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 TRSE-00 PM-07 H-03

L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01

AID-20 INT-08 FEA-02 SCI-06 DRC-01 /153 W

----- 033169

P R 242110Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6453

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1231

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EMIN ETRN TD JM

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES AIRLINE AND BAUXITE ISSUES

REF: POS 1202

1. PRIMIN ERIC WILLIAMS CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE THIS MORNING FOR FOLLOW-UP TO OUR DISCUSSION AT THE AIRPORT MAY 21 (REFTEL) REGARDING HIS RECENT TRIP TO NEW YORK. SIXTY MINUTE CONVERSATION WAS DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO AVIATION, BAUXITE AND OIL ISSUES WHICH HE REPORTED ON IN HIS TV ADDRESS TO THE NATION MAY 23 (REPORTED SEPARATELY).

CIVIL AVIATION

2. WILLIAMS STATED THAT COMMERCE MINISTER MAHABIR HAD REPORTED TO HIM THAT THE USG WAS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN A REGIONAL DIALOGUE REGARDING AVIATION IN THE CARIBBEAN (SEE PARA 5.C OF STATE 104784). WILLIAMS SEEMED IMPRESSED BY THIS IDEA AND INTENDS TO TRY TO FOSTER A RENEWED CARIBBEAN DIALOGUE ON THE SUBJECT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 01231 242207Z

3. THE PM STATED THAT WHEN HE HAD ORIGINALLY TRIED SOME

YEARS AGO TO BRING ABOUT CARIBBEAN COOPERATION ON AIRLINE MATTERS HE HAD RUN INTO RELUCTANCE BY BARROWS IN BARBADOS, BUT THAT THE REAL STUMBLING BLOCK HAD BEEN CANADA'S PEARSON AND THE CANADIAN SUPPORT OF AIR JAMAICA. HE NOTED THAT PEARSON HAD BEEN SO RUDE TO HIM ONCE IN OTTAWA THAT HE HAD PRACTICALLY BEEN THROWN OUT OF PEARSON'S OFFICE AND O'HALLORAN (WILLIAMS' CONFIDANT WHO IS NOW HEAD OF CHAGUARAMAS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY) HAD BEEN SO ANGRY THAT WILLIAMS HAD TO RESTRAIN HIM. SEVERAL TIMES, PM REFERRED TO ICA (BARBADOS) AS THAT "PAPER AIRLINE," APPARENTLY REFERRING TO FEELING THAT COMPANY WAS BARBADIAN IN NAME ONLY. IN SUMMING UP, WILLIAMS EMPHASIZED THAT HE COULD CERTAINLY NOT BLAME USG FOR ABSENCE OF REAL REGIONAL AIRLINE IN CARIBBEAN.

BAUXITE AND ALUMINUM

4. WILLIAMS EMPHASIZED THAT PM MANLEY OF JAMAICA HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE RECENTLY IN APPROACHING HIM TO EXPRESS JAMAICAN INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THE PROPOSED ALUMINUM SMELTER IN TRINIDAD AND IN PARTICIPATING IN AN ALUMINA PROCESSING ARRANGEMENT. (NOTE: SEE ANNOUNCEMENT REPORTED POS 1223) DR. WILLIAMS REMARKED THAT THIS WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTING IN VIEW OF THE COMPLETE LACK OF JAMAICAN RESPONSE WHEN WILLIAMS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED A JOINT SMELTER PROJECT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO. AT THAT TIME ONLY SURINAM HAD EXPRESSED ANY INTEREST AND GUYANA HAD BEEN LOOKING TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF ITS OWN ALUMINUM SMELTER UTILIZING HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE GUYANAN HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROPOSAL HAD BEEN SHOWN TO BE PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE, LEADING TO RENEWED DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GUYANA AND TRINIDAD.

LINKING OF BAUXITE AND AVIATION ISSUES

5. WILLIAMS STATED THAT HE JUST COULDN'T UNDERSTAND JAMAICA. NOW JAMAICA WAS ACTIVELY SEEKING COORDINATION ON BAUXITE WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND CONTINUING TO INHIBIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL AVIATION POLICY. HE WAS NEVERTHELESS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED THAT ANY SUCH MAJOR ISSUES WERE BEGINNING TO BE DEALT WITH ON A MORE COORDINATED BASIS BY CARICOM PARTNERS. WHEN I NOTED THAT HE APPEARED TO BE IN A VERY STRONG NEGOTIATING POSITION RELATIVE TO HIS CARICOM NEIGHBORS WHEN IT CAME TO TRYING TO FOSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT O 01231 242207Z

FURTHER COOPERATION IN VIEW OF TRINIDAD'S OIL AND GAS RESOURCES, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THAT WAS TRUE. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD NOT AT THIS STAGE RESORT TO DIRECT ARM TWISTING LINKING THE BAUXITE AND AVIATION PROBLEMS, "BUT JAMAICA MUST REALIZE THAT THE AIRLINE SITUATION ENTERS INTO THE PICTURE."

6. COMMENT: OVERALL MOOD OF CONVERSATION WAS ONE OF SATISFACTION BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE DEVELOPMENTS STEMMING FROM HIS AND

HIS MINISTER'S TRIPS TO THE US, HE OBVIOUSLY FEELS THAT SOME
MOMENTUM HAS BEEN CREATED, AND I BELIEVE HE WILL FOLLOW
UP FURTHER ON EFFORTS BOTH TO LAUNCH A JOINT ALUMINUM SMELTER
PROJECT AND TO CREATE A JOINT REGIONAL APPROACH ON CARIBBEAN
CIVIL AVIATION. I BELIEVE THE USG OFFER TO PARTICIPATE IN A
REGIONAL AVIATION DIALOGUE WILL BE TAKEN UP AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. WILLIAMS ASKED ME TO TALK FURTHER WITH MAHABIR
TO REVIEW HIS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON ON CIVIL AVIATION AND
I AM TRYING TO ARRANGE TO SEE MAHABIR LATE TODAY.
MILLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, BAUXITE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, AIR ROUTES, NEGOTIATIONS, JOINT VENTURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PORTO01231
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740131-0225
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740520/aaaaaquu.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: POS 1202
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES AIRLINE AND BAUXITE ISSUES
TAGS: PFOR, EMIN, ETRN, TD, JM, US, (WILLIAMS, ERIC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005